United Nations A/53/179

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Letter dated 14 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that you arrange for the distribution as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, of the decisions and resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 4 to 7 June 1998, and the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fourth ordinary session, held at Ouagadougou from 8 to 10 June 1998 (see annexes).**

(*Signed*) Carlos **Dos Santos**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique
and Chairman of the African Group for the month of July

* A/53/150.
** The annexes are being circulated in the languages of submission only (Arabic, English and French).

98-20766 (E) 180998

Annex I

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions and resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-eighth ordinary session

Contents

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
CM/Dec.402 (LXVIII)	Decision on the progress report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Structural Reform	4
CM/Dec.403 (LXVIII)	Decision on the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization	5
CM/Dec.404 (LXVIII)	Decision on the report of the Secretary-General on the tenth session of the Committee on Contributions	5
CM/Dec.405 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros	6
CM/Dec.406 (LXVIII)	Decision on the situation in Burundi	8
CM/Dec.407 (LXVIII)	Decision on the situation in Somalia	9
CM/Dec.408 (LXVIII)	Decision on the situation in Angola	11
CM/Dec.409 (LXVIII)	Establishment of the Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events	12
CM/Dec.410 (LXVIII)	Enhancement of the effectiveness of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution	13
CM/Dec.411 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace Fund	14
CM/Dec.412 (LXVIII)	Report on the OAU Commission on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa	15
CM/Dec.413 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the question of Palestine	17
CM/Dec.414 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East	20
CM/Dec.415 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Sierra Leone	21

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
CM/Dec.416 (LXVIII)	Elimination of unjust and unilateral economic measures against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	23
CM/Dec.417 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the Twentieth African Regional Conference of Ministers of Agriculture	24
CM/Dec.418 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa	24
CM/Dec.419 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the twenty-first ordinary session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission	25
CM/Dec.420 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the African Common Position and Plan of Action on Child Labour in Africa	27
CM/Dec.421 (LXVIII)	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution AHG/Res.251 (XXXII) on the Decade of Education in Africa – (1997–2006)	27
CM/Dec.422 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Stockholm Conference on Cultural Policies and Their Implications for Africa	28
CM/Dec.423 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up of OAU declarations on HIV/AIDS in Africa	29
CM/Dec.424 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab cooperation	30
CM/Dec.425 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of OAU treaties	30
CM/Dec.426 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the draft Cooperation Agreement between OAU and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	31
CM/Dec.427 (LXVIII)	Explanatory memorandum on the financial implications regarding the adoption of the draft Protocol on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	32
CM/Dec.428 (LXVIII)	Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU programme for the protection of community rights and control of access to biological resources	32
CM/Dec.429 (LXVIII)	Water supply and sanitation	33
CM/Dec.430 (LXVIII)	Report of the activities of the African Civil Aviation Commission	34

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
CM/Dec.431 (LXVIII)	African candidatures for posts within the United Nations system and other international institutions	34
CM/Dec.432 (LXVIII)	Proliferation of small arms and light weapons	36
CM/Res.1681 (LXVIII)	Resolution	37

DECISIONS OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-eighth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 1 - 6 June, 1998,

After consideration of the Report of the Secretary-General and the related recommendations of the Committee of Ambassadors as contained in the report of its Seventh Ordinary Session,

CM/Dec.402 (LXVIII) Decision on the Progress Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform - (Doc. CM/2059 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the progress report submitted by the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform;

2. EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT for the on-going restructuring process of the General Secretariat, aimed at streamlining its structures and methods of work as well as enhancing its efficiency;

3. COMMENDS the Committee and the Secretary-General for the efforts deployed in that regard;

4. REQUESTS the Committee to expedite the examination of the Consultant's report and to submit its recommendations to the 1999 February Session of the Council;

5. URGES the Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Reform in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters to examine the financial implications of the reforms bearing in mind the need to ensure that it is contained within the existing resources of the regular budget of the two years covered by the envisaged transitional period.

CM/Dec.403 (LXVIII) Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Financial Situation of the Organization (Doc. CM/2060 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report ;

2. COMMENDS all Member States that are up-to-date in paying regularly and on time their assessed contributions to the regular budget of the Organization;

3. DECIDES on moral and religious grounds and with immediate effect that the OAU and its Members will not comply, from now on, with the sanctions imposed against Libya related to religious obligations, providing humanitarian emergencies or fulfilling OAU statutory obligations;

4. RECALLS that payment of the assessed contributions is an obligation and not an option for each Member State of the Organization.

CM/Dec.404 (LXVIII) Decision on the Report of the Secretary General on the Tenth Session of the Committee on Contributions (Doc.CM/2061 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. ENDORSES all the recommendations proposed by the Committee on Contributions , in paragraph 8 of Document CM/2061 (LXVIII) and AGREES to present them through Council to the Assembly Heads of State and Government meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session;

3. COMMENDS the Committee on Contributions for the excellent work it had done to make the Member States to be aware of their financial obligations to the Organization and URGES it to continue in that direction;

4. CONGRATULATES the Member States which are up-to-date in the payment of their contributions;

5. URGES the Member States with arrears of contribution to endeavour to pay such arrears, even partially;

6. REQUESTS the Committee on Contributions to pursue the critical evaluation of the re-scheduling plans already submitted by the Member States in arrears so as to ensure their full implementation.

CM/Dec.405 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros (Doc. CM/2062 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES Note of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. REITERATES ITS UNFLINCHING ATTACHMENT to the unity sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Comoros and its determination to do everything possible to ensure the respect of that principle;

3. EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN over the unrelenting crisis and the negative attitude of the Anjouan Separatists who have deliberately blocked all attempts at finding peaceful and negotiated solution based on the legitimate aspirations of the population and the cardinal principle of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros;

4. REAFFIRMS the fact that the action of the separatists represents a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the Comoros and the countries of the Indian Ocean Region in general, and constitutes a very dangerous precedent;

5. ENDORSES the recommendations made by the Ministerial Delegation as contained in its report following their visit to the Comoros from 18 to 20 March, 1998, proposing particularly that other options be considered in order to find a solution to the crisis;

6. URGES the leaders of the countries of the region in close consultation with the OAU and the Government of the Comoros to take all necessary measures so as to ensure that the recommendations of the Ministerial Delegation are implemented as quickly as possible; and that the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Comoros would be safeguarded. In this connection, it proposes that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government designate a coordinator in the region;

7. STRESSES the need for the Anjouanese party to commit itself to comply with the provisions of the Addis Ababa Agreement and the Communique of Moheli in order to establish the necessary conditions for the resumption of dialogue and the convening of the Inter-Island Comorian Conference aimed at defining a new institutional framework on the basis of the respect for the principle of the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros, taking into consideration the legitimate aspiration of the peoples of the Comorian Islands;

8. URGES all Member States and the International Community to immediately take all the necessary measures to isolate fully the separatist leaders and to this end REQUESTS the Secretary-General to seize the United Nations, the League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union of this matter;

9. NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the close cooperation between the OAU Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States on the question;

10. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue his consultations for the convening, at the appropriate time, of the Donors Round Table for the socio-economic recovery of the Comoros, as provided for in the Addis Ababa Agreement, with the participation of the Comoros, the concerned countries and the relevant regional organizations;

11. COMMENDS the OAU military observers for the excellent work done in the Grande Comore and Mohel' and REQUESTS that the necessary steps are taken to enhance their capacity and increase the resources at their disposal in order to speed up the process of return to normalcy;

12. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the implementation of all aspects of this decision and to report thereon to the Central Organ at its next Session.

CM/Dec.406 (LXVIII) Decision on the Situation in Burundi (Doc. CM/2062 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the progress made in Burundi particularly the pursuit of the national debate and the establishment of partnership for peace between the Government and the Parliament, enlarged to include political parties and the civil society;

3. EXPRESSES the hope that these developments would contribute to the revival of the Arusha Peace Process and to laying the bases for a genuine national reconciliation in Burundi, so as to pave the way for a lasting peaceful solution based on security

4. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the initiatives taken by the Facilitator to convene the inter-Burundian talks in Arusha on 15 June, 1998 and URGES all the parties concerned to take part and to endeavour to ensure their success to pave the way for a lasting peaceful solution based on the security of all and democracy;

5. TAKES NOTE of the willingness expressed made by the Leaders of the Great Lakes sub-region, within the framework of the Kampala Summit, to re-examine the issue of sanctions once the negotiations planned for 15 June, 1998 start;

6. REITERATES ITS SUPPORT for the efforts deployed by the leaders of the Great Lakes sub-region to facilitate a rapid resolution of the crisis;

7. APPEALS to OAU Member States and the international community as a whole to give emergency humanitarian assistance to Burundi so as to help it overcome the present food crisis.

CM//Dec.407 (LXVIII) Decision on the Situation in Somalia (Doc. CM/2062 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General's Report;

2. RECALLS ITS DECISION at the Sixty-seventh Session of the Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa in February 1998;

3. REAFFIRMS the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Somalia as one and indivisible state;

4. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN that despite the various peace efforts deployed by Djibouti, Kenya, Yemen and particularly the Sodere Declaration and the Cairo Agreement signed by the Somali faction leaders, substantive progress is still lacking;

5. EMPHASIZES that the primary responsibility of peace in Somalia rests squarely with the Somali people themselves and CALLS UPON all Somali faction leaders to close ranks and heed the regional and international efforts aiming at achieving peace in Somalia;

6. TAKES NOTE of the efforts of the mandated country, Ethiopia, IGAD, the efforts of Egypt as well as relevant regional organizations, to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in Somalia. In this regard, CALLS ON the International Community to closely coordinate with the OAU and IGAD, in order to facilitate a negotiated and sustainable settlement of the conflict in Somalia;

7. TAKES NOTE FURTHER of the initiative decided at the Sixth Summit and Seventeenth Session of the Council of Ministers of IGAD and CALLS UPON IGAD Member States to redouble their efforts in the search for a peaceful settlement of the Somali crisis;

8. CALLS ON all OAU Member States and the International Community at large, to provide political, diplomatic, financial and material support to bolster the overall process of peace-building and national reconciliation, through assistance proved for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia, especially in those areas of the country where commitment to peace and national reconciliation has been demonstrated;

9. APPEALS to the United Nations to take speedy action to set up the Trust Fund in support of the peace process in Somalia;

10. EXPRESSES DISMAY at the spiralling violence and increased insecurity arising from the intensification of intra-and inter-clan disputes; and CALLS UPON the Somali faction leaders to make determined effort to bring to an end, these intra-and inter-clan disputes which have led to death and destruction of property and threaten to undermine humanitarian relief deliveries and impede the advancement of the peace and national reconciliation process in Somalia;

11. EXPRESSES FURTHER ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the increasing flow of arms into Somalia and in this regard CALLS

UPON all parties to adhere to the relevant UN Security Council resolutions imposing an embargo on arms delivery into Somalia;

12. REQUESTS the Central Organ to consider dispatching a Fact-finding mission to Somalia, in consultation with the Current Chairman, the mandated country, Ethiopia, IGAD and other interested counties;

13. CALLS ON the International Community to provide urgent emergency humanitarian relief to those affected by the flooding in Somalia and assist in the resettlement of displaced persons;

14. DECIDES to remain seized of the question.

CM/Dec.408 (LXVIII) Decision on the Situation in Angola (Doc. CM/2062 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the delays in implementing the last phase of the Lusaka Protocol;

3. URGES UNITA to ensure the full and unconditional demilitarization of its forces;

4. URGES the UN Security Council to adopt appropriate additional measures required in order to compel UNITA to comply with its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol;

5. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to ensure that measures adopted by the UN Security Council under Resolution 1135/97 are disseminated to Member States of the OAU; and to monitor their implementation;

6. APPEALS to the International Community to render the necessary humanitarian and economic assistance for the reconstruction of Angola, especially the rehabilitation of infrastructures destroyed during the war and the rebuilding of the country as well as demining activities.

CM/Dec.409 (LXVIII) Establishment of the Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events – Doc.CM/2063 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE, of the actions so far taken by the Secretary General, in consultation with the Current Chairman of the OAU, to enable the Panel to commence its work by September 1998;

2. WELCOMES the appointment of the Eminent Members of the Panel under the Chairmanship of H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire of Botswana and ENDORSES the Proposal of the Secretary General to increase the Membership from Seven to Nine, as and when the need arises, in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Panel;

3. APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU and the International Community to contribute generously to the Special Trust Fund to enhance the effective and efficient functioning of the Panel and its Secretariat as well as to ensure the successful accomplishment of the Panel's mandate;

4. REAFFIRMS all previous Decisions adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Session of the Central Organ at Ministerial level and by the Sixty-Seventh Ordinary Session of Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 25 – 28 February, 1998;

5. CALLS UPON the Governments of the States and Organizations concerned in which the Panel is to carry out its Mandate to co-operate fully with the Panel and respond positively to requests from the Panel for assistance and access in pursuing investigations, including:

- Measures to assist the Panel and its personnel to carry out their functions throughout their respective territories with full freedom, independence and security;

- Providing information that the Panel may request, or otherwise need for purposes of fulfilling its mandate and free access for the Panel and its staff to any relevant archives;

- Appropriate measures to guarantee the safety and security of the Members of the Panel and guarantees from the Governments of full respect for the integrity, security and freedom of witnesses, experts and any other persons working with the Panel in the fulfillment of its mandate;

- Granting privileges and immunities in accordance with the General Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the OAU Convention on Privileges and Immunities;

6. DECIDES to remain seized of the work of the Panel.

CM/Dec.410(LXVIII) Enhancement of the Effectiveness of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution
(Doc. CM/2064 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION AND SATISFACTION the report of the Secretary-General and the review undertaken by the Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, on the effectiveness of the Central Organ;

2. CALLS for the review of the effectiveness of the Central Organ as a process which should involve all Member States and undertaken at both the political and institutional levels. The Council therefore CALLS for a review process taking into account the different proposals, including those presented during the Sixty-eighth Session of the Council of Ministers;

3. ADOPTS the specific recommendations proposed by the Ambassadors and reflected in the report of the Secretary-General.

CM/Dec. 411 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Peace-Fund - (Doc.CM/2066 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. COMMENDS all Member States which have made voluntary contributions to the OAU Peace Fund, namely, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa and Tunisia;

3. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to all external , rtners of the OAU, governments or international organizations who have provided financial support to the Peace Fund;

4. INVITES all Member States in position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund, so as to increase the share of the African contributions in the total sum of the resources mobilized in favour of the OAU Peace Fund;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to define an appropriate strategy for mobilizing additional resources, especially from within Africa, not only from national governments but also from the various sectors of business and civil societies;

6. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to closely monitor the implementation of the different aspects of this decision and to submit a report thereon to the next Session of the Council, early next year.

CM/Dec.412 (LXVIII) Report on the OAU Commission on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa (Doc. CM/2067 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the OAU Commission on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa and endorses the recommendations contained therein;

2. REQUESTS Member States to address the root causes of the refugees and displaced persons and to create the propitious conditions to spare their populations forced movements and asylum drive, by establishing a climate of peace and stability as well as the necessary democratic institutions;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the countries of origin to promote peace, security stability and national reconciliation so as to encourage and facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees and return of displaced persons to their places of residence;

4. APPEALS to Member States to respect the basic principles enshrined in the UN and OAU Conventions on Refugees;

5. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Member States in particular those which offer asylum and/or assistance to refugees in the spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood;

6. TAKES NOTE of the recommendations of the OAU/UNHCR Regional Meeting on Refugee Issues in the Great Lakes Region held in Kampala and CALLS UPON OAU and UNHCR to continue to work with the Member States in the region to identify solutions to all outstanding refugee problems in Central Africa;

7. REITERATES ITS APPEAL to the International Community, in the spirit of burden-sharing, to extend to the asylum countries, increased material assistance so as to augument their capacity

to shoulder the heavy responsibilities of hosting the refugees as well as cope with the socio-economic and environmental consequences arising from it;

8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the International Community, and the humanitarian organizations which provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons, in particular, the UNHCR, WFP and the ICRC; REITERATES ITS PROFOUND SATISFACTION with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as well as her organization for the work and the relentless efforts deployed in favour of refugees and URGES them to increase their assistance and to cooperate with the OAU and Member States in the search for lasting solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;

9. INVITES all Member States to take part actively in the Ministerial Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees and Displaced Persons slated for Khartoum, the Sudan, in December 1998;

10. REQUESTS the OAU Commission on Refugees and the Secretariat to pursue their efforts in close co-operation with the UNHCR to implement the Programme of Action adopted during the 64th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers held in Yaounde Cameroon, in July 1996;

11. TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION the work done by the OAU Commission on Refugees and REQUESTS it to continue implementing its Programme of Action.

CM/Dec. 413 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Question of Palestine (Doc. CM/2068 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary General;

2. REAFFIRMS the right of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO to exercise their inalienable national rights, their right to return to their homeland, restoration of their properties, self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with international law;

3. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN and CONDEMNATION of Israel's violation of the principles of peace and peaceful co-existence and its disregard for the principles on which the peace process is based. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN ALSO over the continued Israeli government policy aimed at undermining the peace process and throwing the security of the region into chaos and violence;

4. EMPHASIZES the need to implement the three stages of redeployment process in accordance with the agreement signed and the timetable set so as to ensure the extension of Palestinian authority to all the territories of the Western Bank and Gaza Strip which constitute one geographical unit, put an end to all the unilateral steps especially the policy of settlement and to consider all the issues pertaining to the final negotiations upon Israelis completion of the requirements of the transitional stage;

5. EXPRESSES ITS SERIOUS CONCERN over the stall of the peace process especially after the failure of the London meetings and the postponement of the Washington Summit which was scheduled to take place on 11 May 1998 because of Israeli Government's intransigence and lack of seriousness in achieving

a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee security and stability for all the peoples of the region and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their occupied land, their national and historical inalienable rights:

6. TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION of the initiative recently proposed by Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Jacques Chirac of France on the convening of an international conference on the Middle East in view of the current crisis of the peace-process;

7. CALLS UPON Israel to immediately stop the practice of confiscating Palestinian lands, especially those in East Jerusalem and its environs and the expansion of settlements in violation of Security Council Resolutions 22, 338, 465 and 478 which threatens to lead to the collapse of the peace process; REAFFIRMS that part of the Jerusalem occupied in 1967 is part and parcel of the Palestinian territories and is, therefore, subjected to the same provision of the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council;

8. EMPHASIZES the need to implement the General Assembly Resolution ES-10/3 adopted by its Special Emergency Session held on 15 June 1997 on the status of Jerusalem and the illegal measures being taken in other occupied Palestinian territories and ALSO EMPHASIZES the urgent need, as soon as possible, the UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/4 adopted by its Special Emergency Session held on 13 November 1997 on the convening of a conference as soon as possible, to implement the Geneva convention in the occupied territories including Jerusalem;

9. CALLS UPON Israel to immediately put and end to the on-going construction work on the Abu Ghunaym Mountain and URGES the co-sponsors of the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community to end all forms of assistance and support to Israel in its illegal activities in the occupied lands;

10. EMPHASIZES the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all the occupied Palestinian lands, ensure freedom of movement of persons and goods in the region, including the removal of restrictions on entry to and exit from Jerusalem as well as freedom of movement in other occupied Palestinian lands;

11. REAFFIRMS the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and regain their property in accordance with the fundamental principles of human rights and the relevant UN Resolutions particularly resolution 194 of the General Assembly and 237 of the Security Council which consider the right to return as one of the basic principles for comprehensive and just peace in the region;

12. REAFFIRMS in view of the critical and serious nature of the situation, the freezing of all relations with Israel at their present level;

13. CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the Principle of Land for Peace and its full implementation of all agreements and commitments entered into by the parties concerned during the peace talks;

14. EMPHASIZES the urgent need for Israel, the occupying power, to respect all international humanitarian laws as provided by the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 in the occupied Palestinian lands since 1967, including Jerusalem;

15. EMPHASIZES ALSO the need to respect the agreements entered into and other international laws which are necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. It also CALLS for strict implementation of the peace agreements which were concluded and URGES the sponsors of the peace process, the parties concerned and the international community at large to revamp the peace process and guarantee its success;

16. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION with the appeal made by the Palestinian National Authorities to celebra e Bethlehem 2000 in commemoration of the Birth of Christ and CALLS ON Member States to accord the celebrations the necessary importance to ensure their success leading to peace and hope in the Middle East.

CM/Dec.414(LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Middle East (Doc. CM/2069 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. RECALLS all the previous resolutions adopted by the Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government and the OAU Council of Ministers REAFFIRMS that the Question of Palestine is the core of the struggle in the Middle East and that there can be no just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and Southern Lebanon and unless the Palestinian people are allowed to exercise their inalienable national rights in accordance with the relevant resolutions, especially resolutions 242, 338, 465, 478 and 425 based on the Principle of Land for Peace;

3. CALLS for the initiation of all possible measures to ensure Israel's adherence to the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the Principle of Land for Peace and its full implementation of all the agreements and commitments entered into by the parties on all tracks during the peace talks;

4. REITERATES ITS PRINCIPLED SUPPORT for the Palestinian cause and decries the intransigence of the Israeli Government in the peace negotiation and CALLS UPON Israel to immediately desist from all actions that jeopardize the peace process;

5. URGES the United Nations General Assembly and the international community to ensure complete Israeli Compliance with UN and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions on the use of nuclear installations only for peaceful purposes - persuade that country to allow international inspection of its nuclear installations and draw the attention of the Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency to the actual and potential threat posed by radiation leakage from the Daimumd reactors in the absence of any international inspection;

6. REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT for the proposal of H.E. President Hosni Mubarak to declare the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapon and all weapons of mass destruction;

7. URGES all the countries in the region which have not yet acceded to the Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to do so by putting their nuclear installations under the inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to refrain from manufacturing, producing, testing and possessing nuclear weapons.

CM/Dec.415 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Sierra Leone (Doc. CM/2062 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General's Report on the situation in Sierra Leone ;

2. WELCOMES the reinstatement of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah to Sierra Leone, following the successful ousting of the illegal military regime by ECOMOG;

3. APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU in particular, and to International Community at large, to render immediate and generous humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone;

4. FURTHER APPEALS to all Member States of the OAU in particular, and the International Community at large, to give the Government of Sierra Leone all possible assistance in its efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the country;

5. URGES the United Nations and the International Community to make a determined effort to provide assistance to meet the logistical and technical requirements of ECOMOG, in order to enable its deployment throughout Sierra Leone;

6. FURTHER URGES, that the United Nations and the International Community buttress the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone and ECOWAS in disarmament and demobilization process and in assuming general security in the country, and APPEALS to Member States of ECOWAS, and indeed members of the international community who have promised to contribute troops and materials for this process to redeem their pledges;

7. EXPRESSES DISMAY at and CONDEMNS the atrocities being committed by forces of the overthrown military regime and the RUF and called upon them to cease these activities forthwith, to enable the process of national re-integration to continue;

8. ENCOURAGES the people of Sierra Leone to continue to pursue a process of national reconciliation between the different sectors of the community.

CM/Dec.416 (LXVIII) Elimination of Unjust and Unilateral Economic Measures Against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (Doc. CM/2070 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES CONCERN over the continued unjust economic measures whose effect is felt beyond the region of the country concerned in violation of the international law, thus undermining the interests of other countries, especially the developing ones. They also caused a lot of economic and social harm that has a spill over on the neighbouring countries and peoples;

3. EMPHASISES the need to put an immediate end tc these measures in order to realize the aims and objectives of the OAU and the Member States and their aspiration and right to achieve economic growth and development;

4. REAFFIRMS that in the exercise of the inalienable right of economic growth and social advancement, OAU Member States demand an immediate end to these sanctions which go beyond the territorial boundaries of the country concerned based on repressive economic measures and legislations unilaterally imposed by one country to the detriment of other countries beyond its boundaries which is not acceptable;

5. RECOMMENDS to the Member States to adopt or vote in the favour of the resolution submitted by the Great Jamahiriya under the title of "Elimination of the Unjust Economic Measures as an instrument of Economic and Political Coersion" which will be presented during the forthcoming Fifty-third General Assembly of the Organization of United Nations.

CM/Dec.417 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Twentieth African Regional Conference of Ministers of Agriculture – Doc.CM/2073 (LXVIII)

NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the Report of the Twentieth African Regional Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture and ENDORSES:

(a) The Resolution on the World Food Summit Follow-up, including the FAO and the ACC Mechanisms;

(b) The recommendation on the Implementation of the Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) within the framework of OAU/AEC.

CM/Dec.418 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Activities of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa (Doc. CM/2074 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. APPROVES the recommendations of the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Policy Committee of the Fund;

3. REQUESTS Member States that have been granted assistance from the Fund to urgently submit to the Secretariat, their project implementation reports to enable the latter to carry out an evaluation of such projects;

4. DECIDES that countries which do not adhere to the reporting requirements of the Fund will not be eligible to any future assistance;

5. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Member States which participated in the special pledging session and APPEALS to the International Community, Governments, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Businessmen, as well as Economic Operators to contribute generously to the Fund.

CM/Dec.419 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Twenty-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission - (Doc. CM/2075 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. ENDORSES the Report and Recommendations as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

2. FURTHER ENDORSES the new Rules of Procedure of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

3. ADOPTS the African Common Position on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa which will constitute Africa's position to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs to be held in New York in June, 1998 and REQUESTS Member States to participate massively and actively in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session;

4. ENDORSES the Addis Ababa Declaration on Violence Against Women Related to Harmful Traditional Practices and CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the Inter-African Committee (IAC) on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children to follow-up on its implementation;

5. URGES Member States to re-commit themselves to constantly improve women's conditions, eradicate all traditional practices that are detrimental to their health and progress, and to give greater importance to gender balance in all sectors of development, in conformity with the African and Global Platforms for Action;

6. WELCOMES the establishment of the African Women's Committee on Peace and Development comprising eminent African women and CALLS UPON Member States and the International Community to contribute to the Special Trust Fund for the Committee;

7. ENDORSES the Dakar Declaration, the Programme of Action and the Special Recommendations as constituting the African Common Position to the Third Youth Forum and the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth to be held respectively in Braga and Lisbon, Portugal in August 1998;

8. REQUESTS Member States to participate massively and actively in the First World Conference of Ministers Responsible fc. Youth and include youths in their delegation;

9. INVITES Member States to intensify their roles in capacity building, human resources development and invest in human capital in order to raise productivity, employment, Leadership, Management and Entrepreneurship Development;

10. CALLS ON Member States to adopt the Charter on the Fundamental Social Rights and Duties of African and Arab Migrant Workers in Europe;

11. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the ALO, OATUU, ICATU and IOM to hold periodic seminars on the living conditions of African and Arab Migrant Workers in Europe and submit progress reports to the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

12. SUPPORTS the convening of a Pan-African Social Summit in the Year 2000 to discuss strategies for Africa's full participation in the global economy and thus promote social development and social justice;

13. FURTHER SUPPORTS that the Social Summit should be preceded by a Tripartite Ministerial level meeting involving Ministers of Finance and Development Planning, Labour and Social Affairs and relevant NGOs;

14. CALLS UPON the OAU Secretary-General in collaboration with the ILO to establish a Tripartite Follow-up Committee to prepare for the Pan-African Social Summit.

CM/Dec.420 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the African Common Position and Plan of Action on Child Labour in Africa - (Doc. CM/2076 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. ENDORSES the Report as well as the thematic recommendations contained therein as adopted by the Twenty-first Session of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission;

2. DECIDES that the thematic recommendations will constitute the African Common Position on Child Labour;

3. CALLS ON Member States to use the African Common Position as basic guidelines for the ILO Annual Conferences in June 1998 and June 1999 in order to promote effective contribution during the discussion of the Draft Text of the Proposed New Convention on the Extreme Forms of Child Labour;

4. URGES Member States which have not yet done so to urgently sign, ratify and implement the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in order to ensure the protection, welfare and development of the African children;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary General in collaboration with UNICEF, ILO, social partners to carry out a study and devise an appropriate strategy to persuade Member States to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Welfare of the Child to ensure its coming into force as soon as possible.

CM/Dec.421 (LXVIII) Progress Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of Resolution AHG/Res.251 (XXXIII) on the Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006) - (Doc.CM/2077 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Decade of Education in Africa;

2. ADOPTS the strategy on the establishment of the coordination, follow-up and evaluation mechanisms proposed therein as well as the suggested framework for the draft programme of action of the decade;

3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to endeavour to finalize the programme of action of the decade and to ensure its early adoption by the African Ministers of Education for immediate implementation;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to take necessary steps to implement jointly the OAU Decade of Education in Africa and the Decade of literacy which forms an integral part of Education;

5. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, ADB, ECA, ADEA, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank and all the concerned parties, to set up a Steering Committee for the Decade as well as a Development Fund for Education in Africa;

6. RECOMMENDS that all Member States should draw up national programmes of action to be adopted by their appropriate bodies and establish national committees for the Decade;

7. URGES the Regional Economic Communities also to establish the same structures for the harmonized conduct of implementation activities of the Decade in their respective countries.

CM/Dec.422 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Outcome of the Stockholm Conference on Cultural Policies and their Implications for Africa – (Doc. CM/2078 (LXVIII))

Council:

1 TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. ADOPTS the proposed programme of cultural policy reorientation;

3. RECOMMENDS that all Member States should strengthen their cultural policies while placing premium particularly on development, democracy, peace and inter-African cooperation;

4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to carry out an evaluation of the status of inter-African cultural cooperation and submit a report to a subsequent session of the Council of Ministers.

CM/Dec.423 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Follow-up of OAU Declarations on HIV/AIDS in Africa - (Doc.CM/2079 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Secretary-General;

2. EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is worsening in spite of the commitments of the Heads of State and Government of the OAU made in Dakar (1992) and Tunis (1994);

3. URGES all Member States to strengthen their HIV/AIDS control programmes by improving national funding for them;

4. SUPPORTS the establishment of a Special Fund pursuant to the proposal made by the Tenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa, held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in December 1997, as a way of meeting the cost of treatment of AIDS patients in Africa;

5. CALLS ON the International Community including pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers of anti-retrovirals and other medicines needed for the management of AIDS, to make these medicines more accessible by reducing their retail price;

6. FURTHER CALLS ON the International Community to continue to support Member States of the OAU in their determination to control this epidemic on the Continent by providing necessary resources towards the endeavour and facilitating access to the results of on-going research, particularly on the requisite pharmaceutical products for tackling the AIDS pandemic.

CM/Dec.424 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on Afro-Arab Cooperation – Doc.CM/2080 (LXVIII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Secretary-General;

2. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to hold the necessary consultations in concert with his counterpart of the League of Arab States with a view to convening the Twelfth Session of the Afro-Arab Standing Commission;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the General Secretariat to submit a report in respect of the study on Document CM/INFO (LXVII) on Afro-Arab Cooperation at the next Session of Council;

4. COMMENDS the initiatives taken by the OAU and the League of Arab States aimed at the take-off of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute and CALLS ON the Secretary-General to submit a report to Council on the choice of the Headquarters of the Institute;

5. CALLS ON all Member States to participate in the organization of the Fourth Afro-Arab Trade Fair staled for Dakar, Senegal, slated on 15 – 25 April 1999, under the auspices of the OAU, the League of Arab States and the Senegalese Government;

6. HAILS the positive response of the Government of Burkina Faso to the request of the OAU General Secretariat, to host the Second Afro-Arab Business Week taking place on the sidelines of the International Arts and Crafts Fair (SIAO) in Ouagadougou, from 30 October to 8 November, 1998.

CM/Dec.425 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of OAU Treaties – (Doc. CM/2081 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report;

2. STRONGLY APPEALS to all Member States to accelerate the process of signature and ratification or accession to OAU Treaties;

3. REQUESTS all Member States to give special attention to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to ensure that it enters into force in 1998.

CM/Dec.426 (LXVIII)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Draft Cooperation Agreement Between the OAU and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)-(Doc. CM/2082 (LXVIII))

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. APPROVES the Draft Agreement and AUTHORISES the Secretary-General to sign it;

3. AUTHORISES also the Secretary-General to make a contribution of US$300,000 to the activities funding mechanism provided for as part of the implementation of the Convention in Africa;

4. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the fact that the large majority of Member States have ratified or acceded to the Convention and URGES those of the Member States which have not yet done so to take appropriate measures to ratify or acceed to the Convention as early as possible;

5. URGES also all the other countries, particularly the appropriate authorities of the United States of America and Japan to accelerate the ratification process of the Convention and increase their role in the implementation of the Convention;

6. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Italian Government for hosting the first Conference of the Parties to the 29 September – October 1997 Rome Convention;

7. CALLS ON the Member States to take the appropriate measures to implement the decisions of the First Conference of the Parties;

8. EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND GRATITUDE to the Government of Senegal for accepting to host, in Dakar, the Second Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

CM/Dec.427 (LXVIII) Explanatory Memorandum on the Financial Implications Regarding the Adoption of the Draft Protocol on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Doc.CM/2084 (LXVIII))

Council:

TAKES NOTE of the Report.

CM/Dec. 428 (LXVIII) Report of the Secretary-General on the OAU Programme for the Protection of Community Rights and Control of Access to Biological Resources (Doc.CM/2057 (LXVIII)) Add.1

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report;

2. RECOMMENDS that Governments of Member States:

   i) give due attention as a matter of priority to the need for regulating access to biological resources, community knowledge and technologies and their implication for intellectual property rights as entrenched in the international trade regime of the TRIPS Agreement;

   ii) adopt the draft Model Legislation on access to biological resources and call on Member States to initiate the process at national level involving all stakeholders in accordance with national interest and enacted into law;

iii) initiate a process of negotiation among African countries to formulate and adopt an African Convention on Biological Diversity with emphasis on conditions for access to biological resources and protection of community rights;

iv) develop an African Common Position to safeguard the sovereign rights of Member States and the vital interests of our local communities and forge alliance with other countries of the South on the revision of TRIPS in 1999;

3. REQUESTS the Secretary General to designate the OAU/STRC as the Focal Point for the co-ordination and follow-up activities including the convening of African regional and sub-regional meetings on issues of biological resources and community rights.

CM//Dec.429 (LXVIII) Water Suppiy and Sanitation (Doc.CM/2057 (LXVIII) Add 3

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the request presented on the above item;

2. URGES Member States to recognize the vital importance of water and to promote genuine regional and continental cooperation that will ensure effective management of water resources for the benefit of all;

3. CALLS ON Member States to exert more efforts to provide themselves not only with sufficient water, but also safe drinking water for use by their populations;

4. FURTHER APPEALS to Member States to participate massively and actively in the next African Consultative Forum on this issue scheduled for November 1998;

5. CALLS ON the Secretary General in collaboration with UNEP, ECA, WHO, WMO and every other concerned institution to take all necessary steps to participate actively in the organization and proceedings of the Forum.

CM/Dec.430 (LXVIII) Report of the Activities of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the Report and Resolutions of AFCAC adopted during its Plenary Session of April 1998 in Abuja;

2. URGES Member States to settle their assessed contributions and arrears to ICAO and AFCAC to enable Africa maintain and strengthen her participation in ICAO Assembly;

3. REQUESTS that the resolutions of AFCAC as contained in its Report to Council be presented to the next ICAO Assembly scheduled to take place in October 1998 at Montreal, Canada.

CM/Dec.431 (LXVIII) African Candidatures for Posts within the United Nations System and other International Institutions

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the Standing Committee on candidatures;

2. DECIDES to endorse the recommendations of the Committee and to lend its support to the African candidatures as follows:

a) Candidature of Dr. Jacques Diouf as the sole African candidate for a second mandate to the post of Director General of FAO during the elections that will take place in November 1999;

b) Candidature of Dr. Ismail Serag El-Din as the sole African candidate to the post of Director General of UNESCO during the elections that will take place in October/November 1999;

c) Candidature of Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Namibia to the post of President of the 54th Session of the U.N. General Assembly;

d) Candidature of Tunisia as non-permanent Member of the UN Security Council for the period 2000-2001;

e) Candidature of Prof. Godwin Olu Patrick Obasi for re-election as Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization;

f) Candidature of Dr. Mohamed Salim Mhita to the post of President of the World Meteorological Organization, African Region, during the elections that will take place in October 19998;

g) Candidature of Mr. Taieb Cherif as member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during the ICAO General Assembly meeting in September/October 1998;

h) Candidature of Mr. Mohsen Bel Hadj Amor as member and President of the International Civil Service Commission during the elections that will take place within the framework of the 53rd Session of the U.N.O General Assembly;

i) Candidature of Professor Abdelfattah Amor as member of the UN Human Rights Commission during the elections that will take place on the occasion of the meeting of the States Parties to the International Convenant on Political and Civil Rights;

j) Candidature of Professor Abdelwahab Bouhdiba to the post of Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission on the Application of the Right to Education;

k) Candidature of Tunisia as member of the Board of Directors of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

l) Candidature of Sudan as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

CM/Dec.432 (LXVIII) Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons
Doc.CM/2057 (LXVIII) Add.2

Council:

1. THANKS South Africa for taking the initiative to place the item on the Council's agenda;

2. EXPRESSES SATISFACTION at the initiative taken by Mali on a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, as well as at the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the small arms;

3. REITERATES the urgency and the need for Inter-African cooperation in the search for solutions to the problems posed by the proliferation of light weapons and STRESSES the primary role that OAU should play in the coordination of efforts in this area;

4. URGES the Secretary-General to gather from Member States the fullest possible information on the scope of proliferation of small arms and steps taken to deal with the problem;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to monitor the developments in the situation and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Council.

Resolution

The OAU Council of Ministers meeting in a special session on 5 June, 1998,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Central Organ during its meeting of 4 June, 1998 in Ouagadougou,

Having heard the report of the facilitators on the evolution of the situation between Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Having listened to the interventions of the two parties;

Paying tribute to the work of the facilitators and requesting them to continue;

Considering the gravity of the situation and the loss of lives;

1. URGENTLY APPEALS to the two parties to, at the same time and simultaneously, put an end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators;

2. RECOMMENDS to the Heads of State and Government to be immediately seized with the matter.

Annex II

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Declaration and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fourth ordinary session

Contents

Decision number	*Title*	*Page*
AHG/Decl.1 (XXXIV)	Ouagadougou Declaration	39
AHG/Dec.124 (XXXIV)	Malaria prevention and control within the context of Africa's economic recovery and development	45
AHG/Dec.125 (XXXIV)	Establishment of an African Fund for AIDS Control	47
AHG/Dec.126 (XXXIV)	Annual activities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	48
AHG/Dec.127 (XXXIV)	The crisis between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom	50
AHG/Dec.128 (XXXIV)	Culture of Peace	52
AHG/Dec.129 (XXXIV)	Modalities of rotation for the two seats being claimed by Africa on the enlarged Security Council	53
AHG/Dec.130 (XXXIV)	The dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea	55
AHG/OAU/AEC/Dec.1 (XXXIV)	Decision on the African Economic Community	56

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION

We, Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), meeting in our 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998:

- Reaffirming the values and ideals of solidarity, unity, freedom, justice, independence, peace and the objectives of security, stability and development enshrined in the OAU Charter by the Founding Fathers;

- Noting that despite the end of the Cold War and gradual reduction in the conflicts it generated, conflicts in Africa remain a serious factor which impede the development of the Continent;

- Aware of our responsibility to deal with the present economic, cultural and political difficulties and the conflict situations prevailing on the Continent;

- Noting further that conflicts originate from such external factors as the sequels of colonization and foreign interferences;

- Aware of our special responsibility in the persistence of these conflicts which are also and especially caused by such internal factors as increase in poverty, adverse exploitation of the diversity and cultural and religious specificities;

- Deeply concerned over the continuous fall in Africa's share and participation in international economic exchanges and trade;

- Deeply concerned also over the debt burden on the economies of our countries and the reduction in international financial flows to Africa;

- Assessing the negative impact of social scourges such as malnutrition, AIDS pandemic, Malaria inadequate health and educational infrastructure, on the populations of our Continent;

- Recognizing the inevitable place and role of women in the political, economic and cultural development of the Continent and their commitment in this process;

- Imbued with our common desire to steer Africa out of its precarious and externally dependent economic situation, as proven, among other things, by the drafting of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community and the Cairo Declaration which set up the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;

- Convinced that only a concerted action will make it possible to strengthen Africa's position in the new world order;

- Reaffirming our genuine desire to enter the third millennium in "unison";

DECIDE:

1. At the Political Level

To make the search for peace, security and stability our primary concern and, to this end:

- recognise unequivocally that political issues are primarily national;

- work towards the establishment and consolidation of effective democratic systems, taking into account the socio-cultural realities of our States, with the participation of all actors of the civil society;

- give special attention to the establishment of a system of government based on permanent social dialogue and the search for political consensus;

- work towards the establishment and consolidation of a credible and independent justice accessible to all;

- ensure respect for human rights and fight impunity;

- abolish exclusion and, in this regard, involve all and sundry without discrimination in the management of public affairs;

- create or strengthen in each of our States an organ to deal with peace or conflict related issues;

- create or strengthen within our respective States, structures charged with combating illicit arms circulation, drug trafficking, terrorism and the emergence of transborder criminality, and ensure coordination of these efforts by the OAU;

- strengthen the Central Organ of the OAU Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Mechanism established in Cairo in June 1993, and coordination of the efforts deployed by the OAU and sub-regional organizations a factor which constitutes one of the corner stones of success of the mechanism;

- ensure necessary cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in the field of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

2. At the Economic and Social Cooperation Level

- endeavour to make of our continent a homogenous political force in international fora such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the African - Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), and ensure that the specific concerns and interests of our States are taken into account;

- make the debt question an issue for common action;

- operationalize sectoral policy coordination systems taking the private sector on board;

- devote energies towards strengthening the process of sub-regional integration taking into consideration macro-economic policy monitoring, and involving both the private sector and the civil society;

- reinforce inter and intra-regional trade as a way of speeding up the integration process on the continent;

- strengthen the development of inter-and intra-regional communication facilities and transport infrastructure;

- exert effort to endow the continent with the New Information and Communication Technologies and make of those technologies a tool for Africa's progressive and harmonious insertion into the third millennium;

- reiterates the importance of intensifying cooperation among Member States in the field of Malaria Prevention and Control. In this context, the Assembly welcomes the convening of the African Ministers of Health in Cairo from 13 - 15 June, 1998;

- eliminate all forms of discrimination against women to enable them play fully their role as development actors which can only be achieved through equal access to education and resources;

- reinforce protection of the Rights of the Child and increase the resources and facilities for the child's development;

- work for the assertion of our cultural identities, recognition of our specific cultural values and their incorporation into our development strategies.

3. In the Institutional Level

- endow our Organization with structures capable of meeting the dynamics of changes unfolding in our societies and worldwide through increased coordination of the activities of sub-regional organizations, coordination of the continent's sectorial policies and implementation of the decisions of the Specialized Commissions.

AHG/Dec.124 (XXXIV) MALARIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AFRICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Assembly,

1. REAFFIRMS the pledges and requests made in 1997 in the Harare Declaration on Malaria Prevention and Control in the context of African Economic Recovery and Development (AHG/DECL.1 (XXXIII),

2 WELCOMES the technical and financial support provided to Member States of our Organization by all its partners, especially AusAID, DFID, GTZ, Belgian Cooperation, Italian Cooperation, JICA, UNICEF, USAID the World Bank and WHO,

3. ACKNOWLEDGES the initiative and critical role played by WHO in 1997, specifically the generous assistance provided by the Director-General through the accelerated programme of malaria control in Africa, the actions taken to develop strong community-based approaches to ensure sustainability of control and the continuing support in 1998;

4. APPRECIATES AND SUPPORTS the development of a field-demand driven, multinational, multi-agency and multi-disciplinary African initiative for malaria control;

5. WARMLY WELCOMES the global 'Roll Back Malaria' initiative of the Director-General elect of WHO which will use the African initiative as its spearhead;

6. ACKNOWLEDGES the concerted efforts of the endemic countries for their political commitment and investment of human and financial resources towards malaria prevention and control.

7. CALLS UPON all Member States to:

i) commit additional human and material resources for malaria prevention and control, including disease surveillance and research, in line with the development of health sector reform;

ii) develop strong community-based approaches to ensure effectiveness and sustainability;

iii) mobilise all partners, public and private, local and foreign, to support the execution of malaria prevention and control activities as part of the economic recovery and development;

iv) take vigorous action against malnutrition and the major endemic diseases, particularly, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria within the framework of a cooperation with specialized agencies and bilateral cooperation;

8. REQUESTS the WHO to continue working closely with the OAU to coordinate efforts aimed at the eradication of malaria from the African continent and to increase its level of support in that respect.

AHG/Dec.125 (XXXIV) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN FUND FOR AIDS CONTROL

The Assembly,

1. REAFFIRMS the decisions made in the "Dakar Declaration on the AIDS Epidemic in Africa (1992) and the Tunis Declaration on AIDS and the Child in Africa (1994);

2. REQUESTS the International Community to adequately consider Africa in the global resources available for HIV/AIDS in order to facilitate prevention and wider accessibility to current research findings, especially on drugs and other medicines necessary in the overall responses to this infection. To that effect:

3. CALLS UPON the International Community, especially the pharmaceutical companies manufacturing Anti-retroviral and other drugs necessary in the management of HIV/AIDS patients to consider wide accessibility to those drugs by lowering their retail price;

4. APPRECIATES and SUPPORTS the proposal by the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to establish a Solidarity Fund to help treatment of patients from Africa;

5. REQUESTS the Secretary of the OAU to pursue this proposal with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and concerned agencies and report to the Thirty-fifth Summit.

AHG/Dec.126 (XXXIV) ANNUAL ACTIVITIES OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly,

1. TAKES NOTE with satisfaction of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and COMMENDS it for the quality of work accomplished during the period under review;

2. ENCOURAGES the African Commission to pursue its activities for the protection and promotion of Human and Peoples' Rights;

3. REQUESTS the African Commission, for reasons of efficiency, to review its criteria for granting observer status and to suspend further granting of observer status until the adoption of the new criteria;

4. REITERATES its earlier decisions concerning the means for the functioning of the Commission and REQUESTS the Advisory Committee and the General Secretariat to endeavour to provide the African Commission with the adequate resources as early as possible to enable it discharge its tasks satisfactorily and independently;

5. URGES Member States to honour their obligations enshrined in the African Charter and to lend the African Commission the full support and the cooperation needed for the efficient accomplishment of its mission;

6. REQUESTS the OAU Secretary-General to convene, in cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, a high level meeting of Experts to consider ways and means of removing obstacles to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including fight against

corruption and impunity and propose appropriate legislative and other measures;

7. ALSO REQUESTS the African Commission to finalize the Protocol to the African Charter, relating to Women's Rights as early as possible;

8. REQUESTS the African Commission to conduct the necessary consultations with the competent organs and OAU Member States to ensure a rapid implementation of the present decision and to report thereon to the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

AHG/Dec.127 (XXXIV) THE CRISIS BETWEEN THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRYA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 - 10 June, 1998,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's Report on the dispute,

Having heard the report of the OAU Committee of Five following its mission to Britain and meeting with the British Foreign Secretary,

Expressing profound gratitude to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the position it has adopted and the positive initiatives it has taken in order to resolve the dispute peacefully,

Welcoming the judgement announced by the International Court of Justice on 27 February 1998 confirming its competence to look into the dispute,

Welcoming also the positive response of the families of victims to the efforts aimed at the speedy settlement of the dispute,

Expressing its deep concern over immense human and material loses to the Libyan people and nationals of other OAU Member States,

Expressing its regret for lack of positive response by the United States of America and the United Kingdom to the International and Regional

initiatives and efforts aimed at finding a solution to the dispute based on the principles of the international law and within the framework of understanding and constructive dialogue:

1. CALLS UPON the Security Council to adopt a resolution on suspending the sanctions imposed on Libya under Resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) until the International Court of Justice pronounces its verdict on the issue;

2. DECIDES not to comply any longer with Security Council Resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) on sanctions, with effect from September 1998, if the United States of America and the United Kingdom refuse that the two suspects be tried in a third neutral country pursuant to the verdict of the International Court of Justice by July 1998, date on which the sanctions will be due for review, owing to the fact that the said resolutions violate Article 27 paragraph 3, Article 33 and Article 36 paragraph 3 of the United Nations Charter, and the considerable human and economic losses suffered by Libya and a number of other African peoples as a result of the sanctions;

3. DECIDES on moral and religious grounds and with immediate effect that the OAU and its members will not comply from now on with the sanctions imposed against Libya related to religious obligations, providing humanitarian emergencies or fulfilling OAU statutory obligations;

4. ENJOINS the OAU Committee of Five to continue with its task;

5. MANDATES the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of this resolution and to submit a report thereupon to the next Session of the Council.

AHG/Dec.128 (XXXIV) CULTURE OF PEACE

The Assembly,

1. WELCOMES decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to proclaim the year 2000, International year of the Culture of Peace;

2. CONSIDERS the International Year as a propitious occasion to substitute the culture of war and violence which characterized the last millennium of human history with a culture of peace by promoting values, attitudes and comportments which constitute the foundations thereof.

3. CALLS ON Member States to set up national committees comprising all sectors of society to implement activities in respect of the International Year aimed enhancing reconciliation and national unity through the culture of peace;

4. CALLS ON the Secretary General in cooperation with the Director General of UNESCO and all other concerned institutions, to coordinate their efforts with the view to implementing the International Year of the Culture of Peace;

5. FURTHER CALLS ON the Secretary-General, in concert with the Director General of UNESCO and all other concerned agencies and institutions to promote within Member States, activities to celebrate the Year 2000 as the International Year of the Culture of Peace and COMMENDS the Director General of UNESCO for this laudable initiative.

AHG/Dec.129 (XXXIV) MODALITIES OF ROTATION FOR TWO SEATS BEING CLAIMED BY AFRICA ON THE ENLARGED SECURITY COUNCIL

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998,

Considering its Declaration AHG/Decl. 3 (XXXIII) of 4 June 1997 on the reform of the UN Security Council;

Having considered the follow-up report of this Declaration presented by the African Group at the United Nations and the proposals contained therein:

DECIDES to adopt the following modalities of rotation for the two seats Permanent Members being claimed by Africa on the enlarged Security Council:

(i) Nomination of candidates in each of the five African sub-regions;

(ii) Drawing up of a list of candidates from the candidatures thus submitted to it;

(iii) Preparation of a basket from which the Heads of State and Government will select two candidates to occupy the two seats. The two candidates should belong to two different sub-regions to be designated by the Heads of State and Government;

(iv) Adoption of the same process of selecting African candidates for the subsequent elections in the remaining sub-regions;

(v) Determination, by the Heads of State and Government, of the duration of the mandate of the two candidates elected as permanent members of the enlarged Security Council.

AHG/Dec.130 (XXXIV) THE DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-fourth Ordinary Session in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 8 to 10 June, 1998, examined the on-going crisis between Ethiopia and Eritrea. At the end of the deliberations, the Assembly:

- EXPRESSED DEEP concern over the escalation of the conflict;

- ENDORSED the relevant resolution of the 68th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the crisis between Ethiopia and Eritrea and urgently appealed to the two parties to, concurrently and simultaneously, put and end to all hostilities, accept and implement the recommendations of the Facilitators;

- DECIDED to send to Ethiopia and Eritrea a delegation of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ, to be led by the Current Chairman.

DECISION ON AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government:

Considering the Charter of the Organization of African Unity.

Further considering the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, in particular, Articles 7,8, 9 and 10,

Having examined the Report of the Council of Ministers and the recommendations of the Second Ordinary Session of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), held in Cairo, Egypt from 23 to 24 April, 1998,

DECIDES:

1. REGULATION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Regulation of the Council of Ministers is hereby approved.

2. ACRONYM OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

"AEC" should be the acronym of the African Economic Community, applicable to all its working languages.

3. BUDGET OF THE AEC

(a) In confirmation of our commitment to establish the African Economic Community, a minimum of 10% (ten per cent) of the regular budget of the OAU should be set aside to finance the activities of the community;

(b) In the above regard, the General Secretariat should prepare a detailed budget in accordance with ECOSOC work programme, and submit same for consideration by the policy organs of the OAU which have the responsibility for approving the budget;

(c) The General Secretariat should, in addition:

(i) Take account of the on-going restructuring of the OAU and streamline the activities of the Community as a way of achieving efficiency in resource utilization;

(ii) Maintain close cooperation with the ECA, ADB and the REC's in order to pool resources and enhance cost-effectiveness; and;

(iii) Undertake a study, in cooperation with the ECA, ADB and the REC's on self-financing mechanism for the AEC and the RECs.

4. CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The General Secretariat should take requisite measures in cooperation with the Union of African Parliamentarians (UAP) to establish a Consultative Forum of African Parliamentarians, in anticipation of the Pan-African Parliament provided for under Article 14 of the Abuja Treaty and submit a report thereon to the next session of the Assembly.

5. FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

The Secretariat should prepare an appropriate plan that will lead to complete freedom of movement of persons throughout the Community, taking on board various on-going experiences on the Continent. Freedom of movement of persons should, from the onset, be envisaged in two stages, namely: at regional level in the first instance, and then at Continental level. In the interim, and with immediate effect, officials of the RECs and the African Economic Community, holders of the official travel documents of these institutions, should be exempt from visa requirements during travels within Member States.

6. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS) AND MEMBER STATES

a) The General Secretariat should:

i. Take steps to ensure greater coordination between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities, on the one hand; and among the Regional Economic Communities, on the other, with a view to putting to maximum use the complementarities existing among them through the pooling of the resources of the Joint Secretariat and those of the REC's;

ii. Explore the possibility of utilizing the resources of the EDF to finance the regional projects of the REC's; and

iii. Get Member States involved in future activities between the Community and the RECs';

(b) Member States should ensure the effective implementation of the programmes of the Regional Economic Communities as a way of facilitating the attainment of the objectives of the African Economic Community;

(c) Member States of the Regional Economic Communities should also speed up the ratification and implementation of the protocols and decisions of these Communities;

(d) The Regional Economic Communities, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Community, should harmonize the format for the presentation of their activity report.

7. FUNCTIONING OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

(a) The General Secretariat should take appropriate measures to convene, during the 1998-2000 biennium, the meetings of the following Specialized Technical Committees:

- The Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters;
- The Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs;
- The Committee on Education, Culture and Human Resources;
- The Committee on Rural Economy and Agricultural Matters;
- The Committee on Transport, Communications and Tourism.

(b) The Joint Secretariat and the REC's should prepare, organize and service the meetings of the Specialized Technical Committees, invite the private sector to participate in them and ensure the follow-up activities.

8. INDUSTRIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES:

(a) All Member States and REC's are called upon to ensure the harmonization of their industrial development plans with the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization. In this connection, UNIDO and the Joint Secretariat should cooperate with Member States and the REC's to achieve the said harmonization; in this connection:

(i) The Republic of Cote d'Ivoire assumes the Presidency of the Group of Patrons on Africa's Industrialization;

(ii) The Patron's Group on the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization will be composed of the Heads of State and Government of the following countries:

West Africa	East Africa
Cote d'Ivoire	Ethiopia
Ghana	Sudan
Nigeria	Uganda
Senegal	Eritrea
Central Africa	**Southern Africa**
Cameroon	Zimbabwe
Republic of Congo	Botswana
Gabon	Namibia
	Lesotho
North Africa	
Tunisia	
Libya	

(iii) Note is taken of the arrangements for the first meetings of the Steering Committee and the Patron's Group as well as of Donors for the programmes of the Alliance.

(b) Member States are also requested to:

(i) create or strengthen consultative mechanisms between the government and the private sector with the view to formulating industrial development policies and strategies in line with the objectives of their economic and social development plans as well as programmes for regional and sub-regional economic integration and cooperation;

(ii) Also create favourable conditions which will enable the private sector in Africa to play a more important role in the industrialization of African countries by providing the necessary guidelines, advice and assistance;

(iii) Restructure the public sector to enable it, inter-alia, improve its performance, modernize its management and stimulate competitiveness in order to be in position to assist the private sector in its industrialization endeavour;

(iv) Implement industrial development, cooperation and integration policies and strategies in Africa at national, sub-regional and regional levels;

(c) OAU/African Economic Community, in close cooperation with the regional economic communities, ECA and ADB should assist Member States in implementing industrial development cooperation and integration policies and strategies in Africa;

(d) International organizations, such as UNDP, UNIDO, ADB, IBRD and BADEA are requested to offer material, technical and financial assistance to African States for the attainment of their industrial development, cooperation and integration objectives;

(e) The OAU/AEC General Secretariat, in cooperation with ECA, ADB and REC's should continue to keep ECOSOC informed, through regular reports, of developments in the industrialization of the African countries and industrial integration of the continent.

9. ENERGY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should:

(i) take every necessary measure to complete the pre-feasibility study on the establishment of the African Energy Commission; and

(ii) enter into consultations with the regional economic communities, ECA, ADB and international energy institutions, so as to ensure that the policies and strategies of cooperation in the area of energy are finalized and implemented.

10. POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

(a) The Joint OAU/ECA/ADB and REC's should adopt a common approach to the development partners in order to mobilize the necessary resources for financing infrastructural projects;

(b) ADB is urged to increase the level of financing of regional infrastructural projects, including the use of ADF resources to finance the feasibility studies undertaken by the RECs.

11. INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

(a) ACP-EU relations:

(i) Africa reaffirms its full support for the orientation contained in the Libreville Declaration for the next negotiations on the ACP-EU Convention as defined by the First ACP Summit. While underscoring the need to maintain and strengthen the unity and solidarity of the ACP Group, it requests that the new agreement take into account the regional specificities of each component of the Group, more particularly the imperatives of economic integration as spelt out in the Abuja Treaty.

(ii) It further requests that the negotiation scheduled for 30 September 1998 focus on all the areas of ACP-EU cooperation, and should not be restricted to the generalities.

(iii) The joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat is mandated to set up a group of experts/advisors to assist the African negotiators during the ACP-EU negotiations; more particularly in the areas of preferences and the formulation of an alternative proposal aimed at defining a transparent and democratic mechanism for management and allocation of financial resources, which should involve the beneficiaries and take into account the development priorities of African States.

(b) Assessment of TICAD I and preparation for TICAD II

(i) The joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat and Member States of the preparatory committee should continue to participate

actively in the activities of the preparatory committee of TICAD II, particularly in the elaboration of the agenda for action;

(ii) The General Secretariat and Member States should actively work to make sure that TICAD II agenda for action is based on the Cairo Agenda for Action and include infrastructural and industrial development among the priority areas for Asia/Africa cooperation in addition to the other areas agreed on so far in the preparatory committee;

(iii) TICAD II agenda for action should include concrete actions for resolving of Africa's debt problems which should go beyond debt rescheduling and the HIPC s initiative;

(iv) The TICAD II agenda for action should include modalities for monitoring the implementation process while guaranteeing the participation of African countries in the monitoring process;

(v) The Co-organisers of TICAD II should invite all African States to the forthcoming Conference. To this effect, the OAU/AEC General Secretariat should carry out the necessary consultations with the co-organizers of TICAD II, and assist Member States to prepare for the Conference.

(c) Negotiations within WTO.

(i) The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should facilitate the coordination of the negotiation positions of the African groups in Geneva, Brussels, New York and Washington;

(ii) Governments of Member States should strengthen their Missions in Geneva and countries that do not have a mission should consider opening one;

(iii) Member States should conduct studies in order to identify their respective national interests so as to better respond to their obligations and opportunities under WTO;

(iv) Member States are urged, if they have not yet done so, to establish national focal points on WTO matters with the view to stimulating national interests in trade policy matters, to be formulated and implemented. These focal points should be equipped with adequate staff and

necessary resources to enable them lend the requisite assistance and ensure coordination at the level of the Missions based in Geneva and Brussels as well as that of the Committee in-charge of trade, customs and immigration matters at continental level;

(v) The OAU/AEC General Secretariat is mandated to mobilize resources for assisting the African negotiators in the defence of Africa's interests within WTO. Additionally, it should conduct studies, formulate and coordinate negotiation positions in the areas of common interest for Africa;

(vi) The OAU/AEC General Secretariat should also strengthen its technical presence in Geneva so as to back African diplomatic representations and assist Member States not represented;

(vii) Member States should take the necessary measures, more particularly through their diplomatic representations in Geneva, to obtain as early as possible, observer status for the OAU/AEC;

(viii) Africa's development partners are invited to support the Continent's application for observer status at the WTO. The General Council and Director-General of that Organization are also invited to take the necessary steps in that regard;

(ix) WTO should examine the multilateral regulations relating to regional integration in order to facilitate and encourage the participation of developing and least developed countries in such systems;

(x) The proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) can only be supported if it takes Africa's concerns into account. In this regard, the OAU/AEC General Secretariat should monitor developments on this issue and report thereon to the competent bodies of the Community;

(xi) Representatives of OAU/AEC Member States in Geneva should take all necessary measures to ensure a better representation of Africa in the top structure of the WTO, particularly during the consideration of the terms of office

of the Director General of the WTO and his Deputies in May 1999.

12. INITIATIVES IN FAVOUR OF AFRICA

(a) The initiatives, though positive and laudable, should be developed in a way to meet the fundamental needs and priorities of Africa;

(b) The General Secretariat should coordinate all the initiatives in favour of Africa;

(c) The proposal for an OAU/EU Summit in the year 2000 was accepted, and in this regard, the offer by the Government of Egypt to host it was welcomed. The proposed Summit should lead to concrete results and actions aimed at Africa's development. In this connection, the following main themes should constitute the agenda items:

(i) political matters;
(ii) socio-economic matters.

A follow-up mechanism should also be put in place to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions that will be taken at the Summit.

13. AFRICA'S EXTERNAL DEBT

The General Secretariat should convene as early as possible the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt to deliberate among other things on the initiative in favour of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). It should also take the necessary steps to convene an international conference on Africa's External Debt.

14. DECADE OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA (1997 – 2006

(a) Member States and the General Secretariat should take urgent steps to implement as soon as possible the Decade's Programme of Action;

(b) The General Secretariat should:

(i) in cooperation with ECA, ADB, RECs, UNESCO, ADEA, UNFPA, UNDP, the World Bank and other concerned partners within the UN System as well as all other relevant institutions, make every effort to assist in the preparation

of Joint National Programmes of Action as well as Regional and Continental Programmes towards the implementation of the Decade;

(ii) put in place, as early as possible, coordination, follow-up and evaluation mechanisms;

(iii) convene before the end of 1998, a Conference of Ministers of Education to decide on the major guidelines for the implementation of the Decade.

15. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

a) Member States are called upon to sign and/or ratify all the African and international conventions on environment if they have not yet done so;

b) The General Secretariat should:

(i) review and actualize the African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in line with the Rio family of Conventions, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification;

(ii) encourage Member States to establish effective and efficient National Commissions on Sustainable Development where it does not exist and to strengthen those which have already been established;

(iii) convene, in cooperation with UNEP, ECA, ADB and other relevant institutions working in the area of environment and sustainable development, an All African Conference on Environment before the beginning of the 21st Century, to assess and evaluate the status of implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio family of Conventions.

c) RECs should take the necessary steps to put in place environmental and development policy coordination and harmonization mechanisms.

16 PARTICIPATION IN ECOSOC MEETINGS

(a) The General Secretariat should transmit invitations to attend ECOSOC meetings to Member States in time;

(b) Member States are invited to take the necessary steps to be represented at ECOSOC meetings at ministerial level.

Best copy available